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Associates
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL LIBRARY

TODAY

The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.
Newsletter No. 12
January 1975
Beltsville, Md. 20705



Officers

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VIEW FROM THE TOWER

With this issue of the "Associates NAL Today" we plan to expand this newsletter into a publication approaching the status of a quarterly journal. In this issue are two articles by members of The Associates, which we felt to be suitable for a journal of the nature contemplated by us. We have a long way to go before achieving this status, however, and we need the cooperation of all of our members. If you want to write a feature article or want to suggest an author please contact our Executive Secretary. All feature articles should have some relevance to the broad field of agriculture.

Our present objective is to gain experience. An ad hoc editorial committee chaired by Angelina J. Carabelli was established by the Board of Directors at its November 1974 meeting. Other members are Ruth Pyne, Judy Ho, and Leila Moran. Miss Carabelli has been asked to prepare guidelines for the Committee.

The biggest handicap is, and will continue to be for awhile, funds to publish such a journal. Towards this end, we need to build up our membership substantially. A new membership brochure is in preparation and will be ready for distribution early in February. Please send us the names of hopeful prospects.

Also in February we will be distributing a brochure on the Agricultural Literature Symposium scheduled - September 1975. This symposium is in honor of our national bicentennial. Additional copies of the brochure are available upon request from the Executive Secretary. Your active support is needed and welcomed.

Frank Frazier
President

COLLECTING J. FRANK DOBIE

BY

JEFF DYKES

It pleased me no end that your Director John Sherrod took time out on a recent visit to College Station, Texas to see the Dykes-Dobie Collection in the Texas A & M University Library. I am sure that his visit was responsible for my appearing here today and it is always a pleasure for me to talk about one of my favorite people, my long-time friend, J. Frank (Pancho) Dobie.

Dobie was, in my opinion, the greatest of all the Texas writers. But before we talk about his books and the problems in collecting them, it seems wise to identify Dobie, the man. He was a ranch boy from the Brush Country, southwest of San Antonio. For about forty years he was a member of the English faculty at the University of Texas -- he took time out to serve in the Field Artillery during World War I; to manage his uncle Jim Dobie's ranch for awhile, and to serve as head of the English Department at Oklahoma A & M for two years. His course, "Life and Literature of the Southwest," was the most popular elective ever offered at the University of Texas. But his first love was English poetry. He was a full professor by 1933 despite his refusal to take a doctorate. He did earn a master's at Columbia where according to his wife, Miss Bertha, he majored in "theater-from-the-top-row-of-the-balcony." Later he was honored with a master's by Cambridge University, where he taught as a visiting professor during World War II, and with a doctorate by Southern Methodist University at Dallas. In addition to his teaching and writing, Dobie was interested in everything he considered important to the welfare of his state and his country -- particularly education and politics. He had opinions and he wrote and spoke eloquently in support of them.

It is my belief that a statement he made in favor of admitting the bright black boys and girls to the University was a major cause of his being dropped from the University faculty in 1947. To be sure there had been other differences with the administration of the University, but when he chided the State for not providing equal educational opportunities for blacks, the axe fell. Not for the statement, of course -- he was dropped for insubordination -- refusal to teach during the fall term. Dobie was a hay-fever sufferer and he found it essential to get away from Austin and its Red Cedars each fall -- his courses were scheduled for the spring and summer terms. It is my feeling that his assignment to fall courses followed too closely his statement on negro education to have been an accident. The University lost one of its best loved and most respected teachers -- a man who had led many young Texans to appreciate the literature of his home country.

In a short dozen years the pendulum swung to the other side -- in what I think was one of the best examples of poetic justice that has come to my attention. The University bought the Dobie Library and his Western Art Collection. They are now housed in the J. Frank Dobie Room in the Academic Center, atop the

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Jeff Dykes is an antiquarian bookdealer and member of the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc. This talk was at the National Agricultural Library Staff Professional Luncheon, April 7, 1972.

undergraduate library. Frank had a fine working library of about 10,000 volumes -- including 3,000 on range livestock. I knew the library quite well, indeed, as I was employed by the University to appraise it and spent many hours in the Dobie home while doing so. His art collection was highlighted by a number of Charles M. Russell originals. The Dobie Room is one of the show places of the University and much used by graduate students.

Dobie was a range man as long as he lived -- some of the brass at the University considered it inappropriate for him to wear a broadbrim Stetson (which he always did) and cowboy boots (which he sometimes did) on campus. Some of his critics called him a "drugstore cowboy" and others "a radical" or "a maverick." None of them denied that he was a courageous fighter for the things he believed in. He took exception, sometimes violently, to things he believed to be wrong and he was steadfast in his friendships, regardless of public or official position.

The maverick professor was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson in September 1964, just a few days before he died.

As a writer, he will probably be best remembered for The Longhorns (1941) and The Mustangs (1952) although I am not sure either is his best book. A Vaquero of the Brush Country (1929) was written in the vigor of his young manhood and Cow People (1964) with the wisdom and skill of his maturity -- one of them may be his best -- please don't ask me to choose. Cornado's Children (1930) was the book that earned Dobie his first national notice -- it became a Literary Guild selection and was distributed by the thousands throughout the country. Among his other books On the Open Range (1931), Up the Trail from Texas (1936), Tales of the Mustang (1936), The Voice of the Coyote (1949) and Rattlesnakes (1965) are all about range men and animals. Little, Brown Company of Boston, Dobie's publisher since 1939, has announced that they will keep his major books in print in perpetuity. A dozen Dobie books are in print in England and at least one was translated into German.

Complicating the problem of building a Dobie collection was the fact that he edited about twenty and contributed to many more volumes of the Texas Folklore Society. He wrote introductions for the books of others, contributed to many magazines and for a quarter of a century wrote a weekly newspaper column for the big Texas dailies. His essays and excerpts from his books were used in anthologies and in school readers. It will give you some idea of his production when I tell you that my own Dobie Collection included 672 items (the count now is over 700) at the time my daughter and I presented it to the Texas A & M University Library.

To build a collection of this size requires a systematic approach -- the key is a want list based on a bibliography, if there is one available -- two bibs on the writings of Dobie were published in 1968 but they came years too late for me. My first Dobie want list was developed from a mimeographed reading list that he distributed to the students in his course "Life and Literature of the Southwest" -- Frank had no false modesty and included a number of his own books in the list. The catalogs of book dealers added to it; I spotted unknown (to me) Dobies in collection of my friends and I found the names of others in the card files of several city libraries. After we got better acquainted, Frank was the major source of information about his writings -- on my visits to Austin and by letter he would recall a booklet, or anthology or a magazine article for me to try to find. I bought items on the want list but it seemed to me that for several years it never got any shorter -- I was adding as many new titles as I was buying. A

good second hand or used book store is the best place to buy books -- there is the thrill of finding a wanted item and it is likely to be some cheaper than the same item in similar condition in a dealer's catalog. I bought many Dobie items from Frank's cousin, Dudley Dobie, a dealer in San Marcos; from Elizabeth Ann McMurray whose Dallas bookstore in its heyday was one of the fine cultural assets of Texas; A. H. Schmalzried and Sawnie Aldredge, both of Dallas; Price Daniel, Jr. and W. M. (Bill) Morrison, both of Waco; Walter Latendorf of the Mannados Bookshop and Charlie Everitt, both of New York, Wright Howes of Chicago and many others.

The next best source is, of course, the catalogs of dealers. Many of my bookselling friends were long aware of my interest in rare, scarce and obscure Dobie items and were kind enough to write me about those they had on hand. Catalog reading is one of my favorites and I recommend it to you. J. E. (Jack) Reynolds of Van Nuys, California; Herbert Faulkner West of Hanover, N. H.; Bertram and Tony Rota of London were personal friends of Dobie and they issued great catalogs. All of them were helpful to me in building the Dobie Collection. All the great collections that I know were the result of cooperation between the collector and a number of book-sellers -- it pays to make and have friends in the trade.

In my book titled My Dobie Collection, Keep-Sake Number One of the Friends of the Texas A & M University Library (1971), I listed the fifty items that I consider to be most difficult to find today -- ranking them from "very scarce to rare" to "exceedingly rare." You may find the story of a couple of them of interest. Fred Lambert of Cimarron, New Mexico wrote and illustrated Bygone Days of the Old West and Dobie contributed the foreword. Lambert wanted a limited numbered edition of 200 copies in a fine binding -- "the best," he said. Burton Publishing Co. of Kansas City was his printer and since their experience with limiteds and fine bindings was small indeed they called in Frank Glenn, one of the great bookmen of the mid-country, whose shop was just off the lobby of the famed old cowman's hotel, The Muelbach, in Kansas City. Glenn sent two sets of the sheets to the great British binder, Bayntun of Bath. They were bound in cattle brand decorated horsehide with the hair side out. Marbled end sheets and gilt on all the edges further enhanced the appearance of the book. "The best" that Lambert wanted and got proved to be too expensive and Frank Glenn ended up with the two in the Bayntun bindings. I bought one of the two and should have bought them both -- one of two, however, rates "exceedingly rare."

Then there is the salesman dummy for Dobie's own Hacienda of the Five Wounds -- a title you will not find in any list of Dobie's books. While I was appraising the Dobie library for the University, I found the dummy in use as a protective cover for Jim Hinkle's Early Days of a Cowboy on the Pecos (1937), said to have been issued in one edition of 35 copies. I took the dummy to Frank and he wrote the story on the spot, (October 26, 1959): "Harry Maule was editor of Doubleday. He wanted a book from me bad -- though in the end it never sold much. I called it The Hacienda of the Five Wounds. After it was set up I wrote him to change (the) title to Tongues of the Monte. He didn't like the first title and changed with alacrity. This was a kind of dummy sent me before (the) change was made. For a long time I used it to protect a pamphlet by ex-Governor Hinkle of N. M." That isn't quite the end of the story. Doubleday let the book go out-of-print and it was reissued by the University Press in Dallas with its third title, The Mexico I Like (1942).

In 1947 Frank wrote a new preface for the book in which he stated: "Settling on a title for this book has made me waver worse than Coleridge trying to decide which side of the road to walk on -- now that my much-liked publishers, Little, Brown and Company, are issuing the book, I have decided to revert to Tongues of the Monte. That title says something to me." The British edition also was issued with the title, Tongues of the Monte. All four editions are in the Dykes - Dobie Collection and while the Doubleday and University Press issues can be considered somewhat scarce, the dummy with the first title and a few sample pages is known in only the one copy, now in the Dykes-Dobie Collection. The Pinto Edition of Dobie's The Mustangs (1952), strictly limited to 100 numbered and signed copies, each with an original drawing by Charles Banks Wilson rates "exceedingly rare" -- copy #99 is in the Dykes-Dobie Collection. There are some interesting stories about others among the fifty rarest items but they must wait for another time.

Frank Dobie was interested in cow people, cows, grass, and in his last years, in sheep and shepherds. He collected books and wrote books and articles about them. I was, and still am, interested in these same range subjects but I just collected books about them. It was through the Texas Folklore Society, of which Frank was the secretary-editor for some twenty years and of which I was a member, that we first met in the late 1930's. He was a man with great capacity for friendship and sharing many common interests led to our becoming friends.

I have enjoyed sharing with you some of my enthusiasm for J. Frank Dobie, great writer, staunch friend -- my paisano.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AT THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

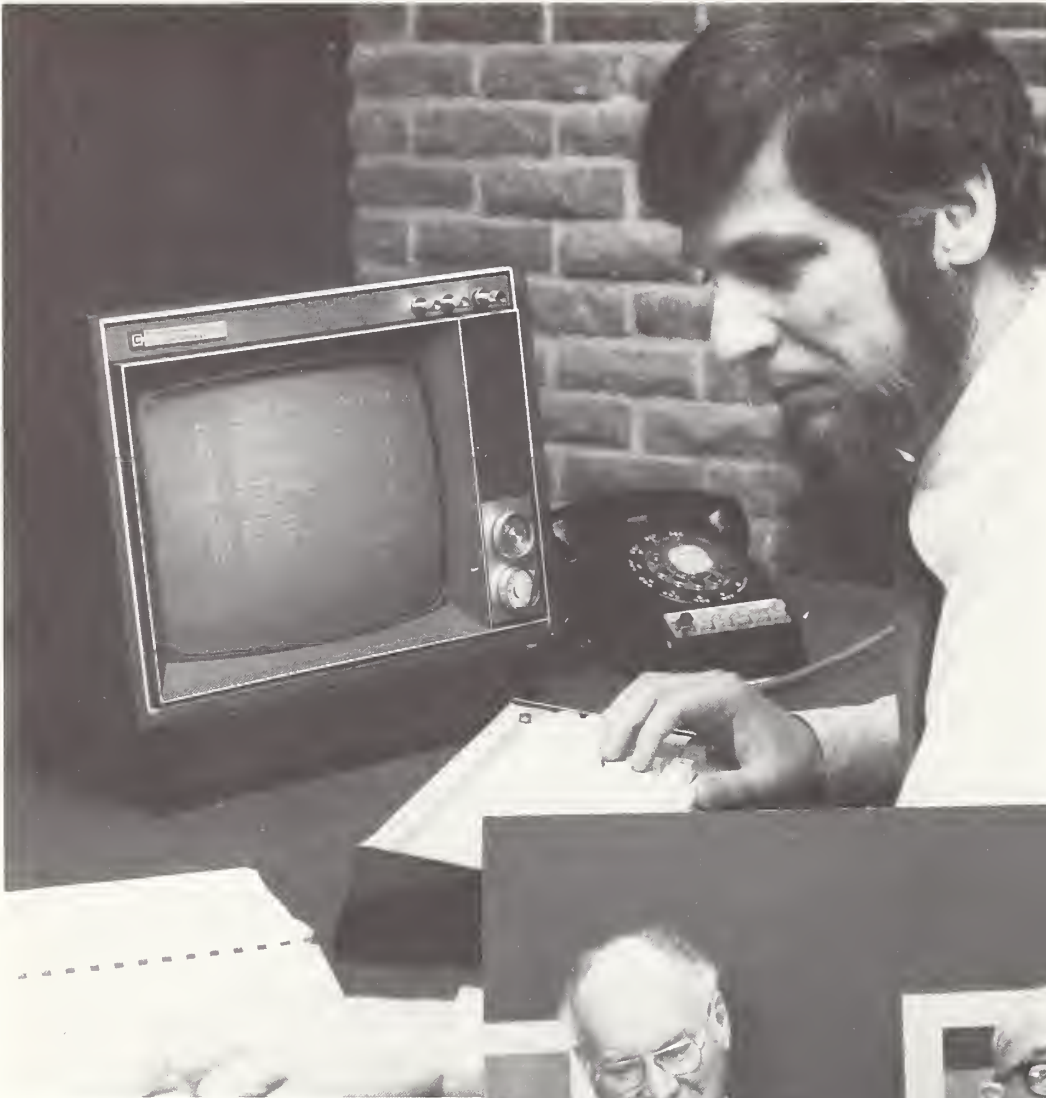
BY

RUTH PYNE

Holdings of approximately 1.3 million volumes makes the National Agricultural Library one of the world's largest agricultural libraries. In 1969, the library staff handled approximately 500,000 serials issues and other types of publications. About 275,000 pieces were added to the permanent collection. The size of this volume presented a serious handling problem to the library staff. At this point, the computer was considered as the only feasible means to improve and speed up the processing of acquired publications.

New techniques in managing information and various forms of dissemination of information were considered. Subsequently, a pattern evolved and a system designated as CAIN was established. CAIN is an acronym for Cataloging and Indexing Computer System. It is a computer based system designed to make input and output of literature acquired by NAL simple in form, convenient, and quickly available to users.

Ruth Pyne is a reference librarian at NAL and a member of the Associates NAL, Inc.



*NAL staffer at CAIN-
on-line terminal*



*Presentation of nursery
archives to Dr. Richard
A. Farley by Dr. Richard
White and Mr. Robert Lederer*

Today, in 1975, we are receiving more than 15,000 serial titles; approximately 5,000 of these titles are scanned regularly by our indexers. If the articles are within scope, they are assigned a category code number which reflects their discipline. Titles are enriched by added words where necessary for clarification, according to set rules. The bibliographic data identifying journal articles, new monographs, and new serial titles is entered onto magnetic tape.

The library contracted in 1973 to load the CAIN tapes in an on-line system. Two commercial firms - Lockheed Information Services and Systems Development Corporation - have our data base on-line and provide search services at hourly rates. This on-line system provides users with the capability of procuring almost instant information on any subject coverage within the field of agricultural sciences: horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, soils, food technology, agricultural economics, food and nutrition, organic gardening, hydroponics, greenhouse gardening, pesticides, insects, botany, to name a few.

Our CAIN data base can be searched by title, author, corporate source, call number, language, date of publication, geographical location, types of documents (monographs, serials, translations, bibliographies, abstracts) source of publication (USDA Experiment Station, Extension Service, FAO); all are coded for retrieval in our data base.

In order to retrieve the information on our holdings in the CAIN data base, we use a well designed formula or structure called DIALOG-On-Line System. The DIALOG enables us to select for retrieval the information in any of the forms set forth in the above paragraph.

DIALOG is an interactive information retrieval language which allows the user to retrieve from large computer-based dialog files (CAIN in this instance). A search request is communicated to the computer by use of a series of command keys on the keyboard of the display terminal. The keys tell the computer what to do. Computer responses are displayed back on the screen of the display terminal or are typed out on the terminal printer. In this way, one can monitor or alter the search until the desired citations are located. At this point the operator may choose citations to be printed out on the high speed printer located near the terminal. If a large number of citations are found in the data base in response to a request the computer is directed to mail the printout to us rather than use a high speed printer. The cost savings is sufficient to dictate this method of delivery.

NAL has access to 18 additional data bases other than CAIN through Lockheed Information Services. In addition, we have direct access to the MEDLINE and TOXLINE data bases at the National Library of Medicine.

Printed bibliographical services derived from the CAIN data base are the monthly Bibliography of Agriculture published by Oryx Press and the monthly National Agricultural Library Catalog published by Rowman and Littlefield and the Catalog of the Food and Nutrition Information and Educational Materials Center. Specialized bibliographies can also be published from data in this system when desired.

HAPPENINGS AT NAL

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY RECEIVES NURSERY GROUPS' RECORDS

Archival records of various nursery industry associations - including handwritten minutes of an 1891 meeting - have been presented to the National Agricultural Library (NAL). Dr. Richard A. Farley, library director, has said the acquisition is particularly important as supplementary material to NAL's own collection of nursery and seed trade catalogs.

Presentation was made by Dr. Richard P. White, consultant, and Robert Lederer, executive vice-president, American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

Oldest of the records is the original handwritten minutes of the second meeting of the Western Association of Nurserymen in 1891. A complete file of the Pacific Coast Nurseryman magazine, 1933-1938, plus convention rosters, proceedings, badge books, code of ethics, and the Marketing Agreement of 1935, as well as the minutes of their meetings, were contributed to the NAL collection by Walter Dimm, formerly of Sweeney, Straub and Dimm, Portland, Oregon.

Other interesting items in the collection include the proceedings, constitution, and by-laws of the Rocky Mountain Nurserymen's Association, the minutes of the meetings of the short-lived Council of Eastern Nurserymen, and the minutes of the Women of the American Association usually called the Ladies Auxilliary.

This acquisition is particularly important as supplementary material to NAL's own collection of nursery and seed trade catalogs.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

These publications, unless otherwise noted, are free. To obtain copies, please send a self-addressed mailing label to: Information Officer, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md., 20705 and indicate which title(s) you wish to receive.

1. *Audiovisual guide to the catalog of the Food and Nutrition Information and Educational Materials Center.* Rev. ed. 1975. 70p.
2. *Food service programs for children: an annotated bibliography.* 1975. Library List no. 99. 78p.
3. *Heritage of American agriculture: a bibliography of pre-1860 imprints.* 1975. Library List no. 98. 71p.
4. *Index to the proceedings of ten USDA land-grant university seminars for food service supervisory personnel. 1969-1970-1971.* 1974. 27p.

5. *Serials currently received by the National Agricultural Library 1974.* 1974. 1215p. \$13.55.
Available from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents
Washington, D. C.
6. *Summary of activities 1974.* 18p.

ARTICLES AND PAPERS ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

Members of the Associates may request free xerox copy from the Executive Secretary.

1. Caponio, J. F. and Moran, L. *AGRIS. Science* 187:4173, 233-236. Ja. 24-1975.
2. Ayer, N. L. *CAIN and its uses.* Paper presented at American Society for Information Sciences, 1974.
3. Justin, A. C. *Here's how on the Food and Nutrition Information and Educational Materials Center.* Paper presented at the Colorado School Food Service Association meeting, Denver, Colorado, September 21, 1974.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES BY NAL STAFF

Fusonie, A. E. *Experiment in foreign agricultural education in the Balkans, 1920-1929.* East European Quarterly 8:4, 479-493.

CALENDAR FOR PHASING ADMINISTRATION OF
THE
ASSOCIATES NAL, INC.
JULY 1, 1974 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1975

July 1974	Publish No. 10 of "Today" Newsletter	Completed
August 1974	Complete draft of monograph on "The National Agricultural Library: A Chronology."	Completed
September 1974	Advertise memberships in agricultural journals	Completed
October 1974	Publish No. 11 of "Today" Newsletter	Completed
	Draft copy for membership brochure	Completed
	Draft copy for announcement and program on Agricultural Literature Symposium	Completed
	Publish monograph on "The National Agricultural Library: a Chronology"	Completed
November 1974	Print and distribute membership brochure	Completed
	Print and distribute Symposium Announcement	Completed
	Board of Directors' Meeting	Completed
January 1975	Publish No. 12 of "Today" Newsletter	Completed
February 1975	Publicity on 3rd Annual Awards	
	Nominating Committee to select candidates for new officers	
March 1975	Board of Directors' Meeting	
April 1975	Ballot for election of new officers	
	Publish No. 13 of "Today" Newsletter	
September 1975	Annual Meeting	
	Symposium on Agricultural Literature September 24-26	